

## **NEWS FROM NORTH DAKOTA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION**

Senator Kent  
**CONRAD**

Senator Byron  
**DORGAN**

Congressman Earl  
**POMEROY**

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### **MILLIONS FOR NORTH DAKOTA DEFENSE PROGRAMS READY FOR PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE**

*Includes Funding for Military Pay Raise, National Guard Operations*

**Washington, D.C.**— U.S. Senators Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad and Congressman Earl Pomeroy announced Thursday that members of the military will get a 3.7 percent pay raise and North Dakota will get millions in new funding for national defense projects under terms of the Defense Appropriations bill passed by Congress and sent to the President. The \$287.4 billion in new spending authority for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2001, which passed the House on July 19, passed the Senate on Thursday. The President is expected to sign the measure into law shortly.

The additional funding will keep all the B-52 bombers at Minot Air Force base flying, and continue defense research and military training at North Dakota universities. The appropriations bill also fully funds a 3.7 percent military personnel pay raise, and includes \$100 million for high priority equipment needs of the National Guard as well as \$17.5 million for additional full-time National Guard personnel.

“The B-52 fleet at Minot Air Force Base is key to our national security and the research conducted at our universities is an important part of keeping the U.S. military services well-trained and prepared,” the delegation said in a joint statement. “Congress is now on record affirming these important investments in our nation’s military defense program.”

National defense projects in North Dakota which will get funding under terms of the bill include the following:

- !     B-52 Bomber Force stationed at Minot Air Force Base:** \$40.1 million added to the defense budget to block the Administration from retiring 18 of the 36 B-52's at Minot Air Force Base. In addition, the delegation won \$9 million to improve the Electronic Countermeasures and Situational Awareness upgrades for B-52s and \$34.1 million to integrate “smart” precision-guided munitions on the B-52. This is the seventh year the delegation has successfully blocked B-52 cuts at Minot Air Force Base.

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- ! **Anti-corrosion Studies at North Dakota State University:** \$800,000 to support research on the development of improved corrosion-resistant polymers and coatings at the NDSU Polymers and Coatings Department in collaboration with the NDSU Chemistry and Electrical Engineering Departments.
- ! **Impact Aid Education Funding:** \$30 million to assist public school districts throughout the nation that are heavily impacted due to the presence of a military facility. The Minot and Grand Forks school systems will benefit from this funding.
- ! **Army Air Battle Captain Program:** \$1.25 million to support the Air Battle Captain Program at the University of North Dakota. The program trains Army helicopter pilots at the Center for Aerospace Sciences and will assist the Army in fulfilling the need for additional pilots.
- ! **Minuteman III Life Extension:** \$375 million to replace Minuteman III propulsion and guidance systems, and keep them viable until 2020.
- ! **BQM-74 Aerial Targets:** The bill contains funding and language to ensure Northrop-Grumman can continue building BQM-74 Aerial Targets at New Town, with \$600,000 in funding expected to be spent at the New Town plant.
- ! **FA-18E/F Production:** \$2.8 billion to build 42 aircraft. Building components for this advanced Navy fighter jet is the largest project at the Northrop Grumman New Town plant.
- ! **Airborne Laser System (ABL):** The delegation took the lead in winning an additional \$85 million to keep the Airborne Laser (ABL) program on schedule. With this additional funding, the total ABL budget for fiscal year 2001 rises to \$234 million. Minot Air Force Base is a candidate for basing the ABL system.
- ! **Operation Walking Shield:** The bill includes legislative language that allows the Air Force to continue providing excess housing from the Grand Forks and Minot Air Force Bases to Indian reservations in need of housing.

These Defense Appropriations are in addition to the \$31.4 million for military construction projects in North Dakota signed into law two weeks ago by President Clinton.

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